

February 2-4, 2013

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

Michigan Lawyers Weekly: MiLW's 2013 class of Leaders in the Law announced

"Thirty of Michigan's top attorneys have been chosen for Michigan Lawyers Weekly's Leaders in the Law 2013.... An awards luncheon will be held March 21 at the Detroit Marriott, Troy, where the Lawyer of the Year also will be named.... This year's Leaders are:... Judge Angela Kay Sherigan — Wojnecka & Sherigan PC; Matthew Schneider — Michigan Supreme Court;"

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Michigan Supreme Court rejects appeal in mosque controversy

"The Michigan Supreme Court won't hear an appeal over the sale of a Detroit-area school for a mosque and Islamic community center. In an order released Saturday, the court said a September decision by the appeals court in favor of the Farmington school district will stand."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Detroit News: Mich. court rejects appeal in W. Bloomfield Twp. mosque controversy

[Full story](#)

Associated Press: Michigan court rejects appeal in mosque controversy

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Daily Tribune, the Macomb Daily, the Midland Daily News, the Oakland Press, the Hometown Life Newspapers and the Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor.

The Detroit News: Detroiters reflect on Rosa Parks' legacy on centennial of her birth

"... As the nation celebrates [Rosa] Parks, the fate of her estate is in its eighth year of litigation. Steven G. Cohen, attorney for the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute, said he has filed three appeals with the Michigan Court of Appeals to 'recover the funds misappropriated by the court appointed fiduciaries.' Alan May, attorney for the two fiduciaries, did not return calls seeking comment."

[Full story](#)

The Alpena News: Academy for teen lawbreakers gets physical

"... Young offenders assigned to the Youth Fitness Academy also get life lessons — balancing a checkbook, buying a car, using hand and power tools, growing vegetables and raising chickens.... Now, [Otsego County Judge Michael] Cooper's academy is the focus of a new online video series, 'Court Stories,' a production of the Michigan Supreme Court."

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Daily News/Iron Mountain, the Daily Mining Gazette/Houghton, the Daily Press/Escanaba, the Lansing State Journal and Mining Journal/Marquette.

Ann Arbor.com: Panel discussion at U-M Law School will explore role of 'dark money' in Michigan judicial elections

"The League of Women Voters and the University of Michigan Law School are teaming up to bring a panel discussion on judicial campaign finance to Ann Arbor. 'Dark Money in Judicial Selection: A Threat to

Impartial Justice?’ will explore perceived problems with the way Michigan selects judges and Supreme Court justices, as well as proposals for reform.”

[Full story](#)

Battle Creek Enquirer: Junior League fundraiser to help refurbish DHS family rooms

Tracie Tomak knows the importance of having a family-like atmosphere when a parent is having court-appointed visits with their children. She's a family law attorney and sees many families go through the tense time of sometimes struggling parents reconnecting with their kids in Calhoun County.”

[Full story](#)

**** The article is available by subscription only.**

Daily Press & Argus: Judge keeps no-contact order

“A former Handy Township man described in court as ‘a homicide waiting to happen’ will not get to see his children while his criminal assault case is pending, a judge ruled Friday.... Livingston County Circuit Judge Michael P. Hatty declined to amend the no-contact order, but he will reconsider that tentative decision at a March 1 hearing.”

[Full story](#)

Detroit Legal News: ACLU refiles lawsuit to block right-to-work legislation

“The American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan was joined on Thursday by labor unions, legislators and a journalist in re-filing a Dec. 6 suit that says the State of Michigan denied the public the right to participate in the legislative process while ‘Right to Work’ legislation was being considered.”

[Full story](#)

Grand Rapids Press: Complaint against Ottawa County Judge Ken Post, who jailed attorney, set for hearing today

“Ottawa County Judge Ken Post is set to go before a state board today that could lead to sanctions against him for jailing a Stanton attorney in 2011. The Judicial Tenure Commission in Detroit this morning will hear arguments in the case against Post, who presides over the 58th District Court in Hudsonville.”

[Full story](#)

Also see:

WOOD-TV(8)/Grand Rapids: JTC: Judge Post should be suspended; Hearing being held in Detroit

[Full story](#)

Herald Palladium/St. Joseph: Reduced charge appears likely for gunman; Jovon Davis charged with killing Niles man in BH

“After a hearing Thursday, a judge said there is likely not enough evidence to justify a first-degree murder charge against 28-year-old Jovon Davis, accused in the slaying of Gary Alilovich in a house in Benton Harbor.... [B]ased on the evidence, Judge Gary Bruce said it is ‘very, very unlikely’ there is probable cause for Davis to be bound over for trial for first-degree murder as the prosecution requested.”

[Full story](#)

Hometown Life Newspapers: Royal Oak, Berkley courts merging in 2015; New plan allows for 44th District Court to keep two judges

“A cost-savings plan to merge the district courts in Royal Oak and Berkley will start to take place in 2015 with full implementation occurring in 2020. The bill was recently signed into law by Gov. Rick Snyder, changing a prior plan that called for Berkley's 45A District Court to merge with the 45B District Court in Oak Park, and for Royal Oak to operate the 44th District Court with just one judge.”

[Full story](#)

Ingham County Legal News: Beware of scam phone calls, e-mails

"It may sound official - and intimidating: you receive a phone call or e-mail claiming to be from a local court and telling you that you missed jury duty. There is a bench warrant out for your arrest and you face 30 days in jail, but the so-called 'court' offers you a way out: pay \$500 by credit card."

[Full story](#)

Jackson Citizen Patriot: Former Jackson County District Judge James Justin's misconduct trial to begin Monday

"The trial of former Jackson County District Judge James Justin, accused of misconduct in office, is scheduled to begin Monday, Feb. 4. He will appear before Ingham County Circuit Judge William Collette in the courtroom of Jackson County Circuit Judge John McBain. Collette has been assigned to handle the case because all the Jackson judges recused themselves."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

WLNS-TV(6)/Lansing: Judge Goes on Trial for Misconduct in Office

[Full story](#)

Kalamazoo Gazette: Details being worked out for closure of Portage courthouse

"The Kalamazoo County District Court on Shaver Road will likely close and officials from the county and Portage are working out financial and other issues. On Tuesday, District Court Chief Judge Paul Bridenstine will address the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners about the need to close the facility at 7810 Shaver Road due to the elimination of a judge position."

[Full story](#)

Kalamazoo Gazette: Day Trip: Mason, MI, offers historic courthouse, antiques district and plenty more

"Make memories in Mason. That's easy in this town southeast of Lansing with its historic courthouse, antiques district, historical museum and great food. Best-Ever Friend Dave and I made two trips to see it all because the Ingham County Courthouse, 341 S. Jefferson, is only open on weekdays since it's a working courthouse."

[Full story](#)

Macomb County Legal News: Attorney known for encouraging young talent

"Attorney Michael Novak was a trusted and valued legal counselor to famous entertainers and those just starting out, but playing the drums was his passion.... Novak, 57, a prominent Detroit entertainment attorney, died suddenly Jan. 27 at his Grosse Pointe Shores home."

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Oakland County Legal News.

The Macomb Daily: State Supreme Court to hear Macomb prosecutor's appeal in molestation case

"The state Supreme Court has agreed to hear Macomb prosecutors' appeal of a ruling that prevents old testimony of a young girl in the attempt to convict a 66-year-old man of molesting her and two others, and his wife of aiding and abetting."

[Full story](#)

The Macomb Daily: Conviction of Warren man's murderer upheld by appeals court

"The state Court of Appeals has upheld the first-degree murder conviction of a man who strangled an elderly Warren man while robbing his home.... An appeals panel voted 3-0 to deny [Paul] Pozniak's appeal in a decision made Tuesday and released Wednesday."

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Daily Tribune.

Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: How old is too old to be a judge?

"You know how they say 40 is the new 30? According to Michigan's Constitution, 70 is the new senile. If you're over the age of 70, you can't be elected or appointed to the bench in this state. That's a rule that dates back to 1906, according to former Supreme Court Justice Marilyn Kelly, when life expectancies were shorter."

[Full story](#)

Midland Daily News: Juvenile Care Center mentors honored, more needed

"In recognition of National Mentoring Month, the Midland Mentors organization recently honored its volunteers for making a difference in the community.... The volunteer program was begun in 2005 by Probate Court Judge Dorene S. Allen and [Liz] Kapla, connecting at-risk Juvenile Care Center Day Treatment Program teenagers with adult role models."

[Full story](#)

The MiLW Blog: Jail, not tethered work-release, for Oakland drunken driving defendants

"Five Oakland County defendants who were placed in a tethered work-release program after being convicted of operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated, third offense, must be resentenced to at least 30 days in jail, plus community service, a Court of Appeals panel has ruled in an unpublished opinion."

[Full story](#)

Muskegon Chronicle: Driving up fees: Muskegon court officials bemoan Michigan's driver responsibility fees' effects on poor

"You may never have heard of Michigan's driver responsibility fees. Even if you've committed a traffic offense that triggers the fee and you have money, maybe you paid with a grumble but without much further thought."

[Full story](#)

The Oakland Press: Charges for possessing a firearm while intoxicated dropped for DeRoche

"The Michigan Court of Appeals has upheld a lower court's dismissal of a firearms charge against former Michigan House Speaker Craig DeRoche. DeRoche was accused of possessing a firearm while intoxicated on June 27, 2010, at his Novi home."

[Full story](#)

SBM Blog: Trying To Put A Supreme Court Justice's Resignation In Perspective

"A friend wondered last week whether former Michigan Supreme Court justice Diane Hathaway might be the first state Supreme Court justice to be indicted while sitting and subsequently convicted. Former Supreme Court Justice John Swainson came to mind immediately, but although Swainson was indicted for bribery while serving on the Supreme Court, he was not convicted of that crime."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Jackson County Legal News; Hathaway faces May 28 sentencing

[Full story](#)

The Times Herald/Port Huron: Worth to appeal to Supreme Court; Township can't afford new sewers

"Worth Township will petition to plead its case before the Michigan Supreme Court one last time before footing the bill to put in a new municipal sewer system. According to Worth Township Supervisor Phil Essenmacher, the board unanimously voted to ask the Michigan Supreme Court to hear its case against the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality."

[Full story](#)

**** The article is available by subscription only.**

Traverse City Record-Eagle: Judge must explain Schwander sentence

"... Thirteenth Circuit Judge Thomas G. Power sentenced [Robert] Schwander to a minimum of 40 years in prison, despite state sentencing guidelines that called for a minimum sentence of between 13 and 22 years. The Michigan Court of Appeals in a 2-1 decision released this week said Power failed to adequately explain why he departed from the sentencing guidelines."

[Full story](#)

WJBK-TV(2)/Detroit: Let It Rip: Judge's ruling on juveniles sentenced to life

"Hundreds of inmates in Michigan prisons are serving life sentences for crimes they committed when they were juveniles. Our 'Let It Rip' panel takes a closer look at a federal judge's ruling that gives all of them a chance at freedom."

[Full story](#)